

Appln No. 09/436,747
Amdt. Dated October 13, 2003
Reply to Office action of July 29, 2003

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REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims

The Examiner has rejected claims 1, 2, 7 and 8. The Examiner has objected to claims 3-6 and 9-11 as being dependent on a rejected base claim but allowable if rewritten in independent form. By this amendment claims 1-11 have been amended. Therefore, claims 1-11 remain pending in this application.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

Claims 1, 2, 7 and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Yasuda (USPN 5,511,206). The Examiner has objected to claims 3-6 as they are dependent on claim 1, which has been rejected. Similarly, the Examiner has objected to claims 9-11 as being dependent on claim 7, which has been rejected.

In response to the Examiner's rejection, the Applicant has amended claim 1 to include features present in the previously presented claim 3. Specifically, the resource has been limited to be a multi-threshold dither matrix used for digitally halftoning a contone image, in the form of an array of contone color pixel values, to bi-level dots. Yasuda does not disclose a multi-threshold dither matrix of this type. Furthermore, none of the other prior art references cited by the Examiner disclose or teach the use of such a multi-threshold dither matrix. Therefore, it is not obvious to include such a multi-threshold dither matrix. Hence, the Applicant respectfully asserts that there are no further grounds for rejection of claim 1. Claims 2-6 are dependent on claim 1 and hence the Applicant respectfully asserts that these dependent claims are in condition for allowance.

Similarly, claim 7 has been amended to include features in the previously presented claim 9. The Examiner has indicated that claim 9 would be allowable if re-written in independent form. Specifically, the resource has been limited to be a multi-threshold dither matrix used for digitally halftoning a contone image, in the form of an array of contone color pixel values, to bi-level dots. Similar to the comments above, Yasuda does not disclose a multi-threshold dither matrix of this type and hence the Applicant respectfully asserts that there are no further grounds for rejection of amended claim 7. Claims 8-11 are dependent on claim 7 and hence the Applicant respectfully asserts that these dependent claims are in condition for allowance.

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Conclusion

Claim 1 is not anticipated by Yasuda as Yasuda does not disclose a resource in the form of a multi-threshold dither matrix used for digitally halftoning a contone image, in the form of an array of contone color pixel values, to bi-level dots. In light of the above amendments and remarks, the Applicant respectfully requests the timely issuance of a Notice of Allowance in respect of the above-identified application.

Very respectfully,

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